



St. George Field Office
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OHV Plan Scoping Report is Available

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St. George OHV Plan Overview

The BLM’s St. George Field Office is preparing an amendment to the Resource Management Plan for public lands in Washington County, Utah, that will update Off Highway Vehicle categories and provide for route designations within areas identified as “limited” under state and federal guidelines.

On January 3, 2005, BLM’s St. George Field Of- fice opened the scoping period for the St. George OHV Plan Amendment and EIS. Information gathered during the formal scoping period from the public and has been compiled into a Scoping Report which is now available.

Where Do I Get a Scoping Report?

A paper copy of the Scoping Report is available at the Interagency Information Center, 345 East Riverside Drive, St. George, Utah 84790 or you may find it on the St. George Field Office website at www.ut.blm.gov/stgeorge_fo

Key Objectives of the Route Designations

- Provide the public with a clearly marked network of roads and trails with signs and maps to promote public safety, awareness, and enhanced recreation opportunities,
- Reduce growing conflicts between increased motorized recreation and important resource values on public lands in Washington County,
- Promote citizen-based opportunities for trail stewardship, monitoring, and system manage- ment,
- Support law enforcement officials in promoting compliance with OHV regulations and effective deterrents to abuses of public lands.

How did we notify you of scoping?

Outreach for the public workshops and scoping period was accomplished by several methods, these included:

- *A planning bulletin was distributed to more than 200 individuals in January 2005 by di- rect mail*
- *Website - www.stgeorgeohvplan.com was maintained to provide detailed information on the process, key issues, draft docu- ments, and contact information*
- *Posters announcing the public meetings were distributed to local organizations and retailers for display*
- *Scoping meeting dates and comment dead- lines were announced through the local newspaper, radio stations and KDXU talk radio, and*
- *Bulletins, maps, Frequently Asked Ques- tions and public comment forms were placed in 17 information stations at city offices, businesses, and public buildings throughout Washington county*

We Received hundreds of comments from the public during the initial scoping period. BLM will use this information to update and validate our current road and trail inventory, refine issues addressed in the plan, and de- velop alternatives for the draft EIS



Unfortunately...

At the end of March 2005, BLM announced that money would be moved from the St. George Planning Amendment to higher priority BLM plans in Utah that were further along and needed financial assistance to complete.

The St. George Field Office planning contract was terminated, and the planning website cancelled.

However, the St. George Field Office will continue to work on this plan and will extend the scoping period for the St. George OHV Plan Amendment and EIS. This will enable the Field Office to follow up on issues raised during scoping, assess travel routes and refine planning criteria to be used when funds are available to push for the OHV designations.

We will continue to consult with agencies, local governments, tribes, and interested parties to improve and add to the road and trail data in anticipation of resuming the plan amendment in the future.

What's Next?

BLM has extended scoping (information gathering) for the indefinite future, and will solicit information from the public to improve knowledge of road and trail networks and define issues that will be addressed in the OHV plan.

We are looking for specific information now on the following kinds of issues:

- Concrete data concerning specific roads and trails (photos, maps., video tape, GIS),
- Current use of roads and trails,
- Suggestions with specific locations and relevant and important values.

In the Meantime...

BLM will continue to implement the existing Resource Management Plan (RMP) by completing route designations in special management areas such as the Santa Clara River Reserve, Little Creek Mountain, and other areas in Washington County identified in the RMP for designated routes only. These are in addition to route designations already completed in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, Fort Pearce and portions of the Red Bluff Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

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Plans for the Future

- **St. George Field Office will seek restored funding from a variety of sources.**
- **St. George Field Office will collaborate further with the Dixie National Forest, Zion National Park, Utah State Trust Lands Administration, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, affected Indian Tribes, and Washington County to reach agreement on how to properly coordinate OHV trail access jurisdictions.**
- **St. George Field Office personnel will be available to individuals, groups and communities to answer questions and discuss issues relevant to the OHV Plan Amendment.**
- **St. George Field Office will keep interested parties informed of progress in resuming full work on the OHV Plan Amendment.**

